

Dear Environment Committee,

I am a Connecticut resident and I am submitting this testimony to express my strong support for H.B. 5293, an act prohibiting the use of wild or exotic animals in traveling animal acts.

Wild animals live complex and emotionally rich lives in their natural environment where they can engage in their innate behaviors. Animals in traveling acts face a bleak existence, one where they are subjected to beatings, psychological torment, and perpetual isolation. They are deprived of their liberty, forced to live in cages and trailers, and prohibited from moving about freely or engaging in any behavior that is natural to them.

Taking the public's lead on this issue, states across the nation are moving to prevent circuses and other traveling animal acts from exploiting animals. California, New Jersey, Hawaii, New York, Illinois, and over 100 cities have passed outright bans or restrictions on the use of wild animals in traveling acts. It's time for Connecticut to join these states and cities and ban the use of wild animals in traveling exhibits and shows. This is an urgently needed step to help protect elephants, nonhuman primates, and other wild animals from human-caused harm.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ms. Joan Roncalli-Cummings

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